

HAFFEN DIDN'T SUSPECT A STEAL IN HUNT'S POINT

Wasn't His Business If City Paid \$252,118 for Plot Worth \$4,300.

SO HE SAID NOTHING.

His Friends Were Engaged in Purchase of "Park" for 77 Times Value.

"There's been a \$200,000 steal in the Bronx in that Hunt's Point Park condemnation proceeding, and I am going to find out all about it," said Commissioner Mitchell, of the Haffen investigating commission, to-day, to a reporter for The Evening World. "It's a gigantic steal and I believe we have enough evidence to warrant some action. If a man named Plannery was in the deal, or engineered it, I want to find that out, as well as who the politicians are who were with him."

The investigation, after a protracted inquiry into the half-million-dollar Bronx Courthouse transaction, switched to the Hunt's Point Park project.

The local board of Morrisania, in September, 1904, adopted a resolution to acquire Hunt's Point for a park and bathing place. The Board of Estimate, a year later, designated the place to be condemned or purchased. The property was assessed at \$4,300. Francis V. Oliver, Francis W. Pollock and John H. Behrman, a former Alderman, were appointed commissioners. The East Bay Land and Improvement Company, of which Charles H. Patrick, of No. 23 Pine street, was president, owned the property. Joseph A. Plannery, a lawyer, represented the East Bay Land and Improvement Company before the Commission. The land company sold the property, ostensibly to Leon A. Rains, then in the employ of Plannery.

A dummy corporation, known as the Barretto Point Land and Improvement Company, was formed by Plannery for the purpose of taking title and receiving the award for Hunt's Point Park. Paid \$252,118 for "Park."

The city finally took title, ninety-seven lots being acquired. Of this number 72.14 lots were under water. The city paid for the property \$252,118, an average cost per lot of \$2,521.18. The property had previously been assessed at a value between \$2,700 and \$4,300. The spot is declared to be most isolated.

Witness Haffen on the stand declared he knew nothing of the transaction and added: "If I had known of it I would have notified the District Attorney. I have nothing to do with the deliberations of the local board, but I certified to the Hunt's Point plan as a matter of course. It is for the Board of Estimate to make final determination after investigating. The matter does not concern me, nor does it concern."

Commissioner Mitchell then asked: "Who were the parties interested in that boom?"

"I do not know."

"Ever hear of the Barretto Point Land Company, or the East Bay Land and Improvement Company?"

"The last I know well, it is an old concern."

"Ever hear of a Mr. Plannery?"

"Oh, he's an assessment lawyer. I think. A Mr. Patrick has appeared before our board, too, for the Barretto Point project."

"Had you known that this big deal was under way, that the projectors prevailed upon your local board to endorse a plan for a park, two-thirds of which was under water and which was to cost seventy-seven times as much as the assessed value, what would you do?"

"I would condemn it and expose it," announced President Haffen, reddening.

"Do you know Francis V. Oliver?"

"Yes. He's a brother of 'Paradise Park' Oliver. He's a character. I have known Frank for forty years."

"Do you know John H. Behrman?"

"Yes."

"Know Francis W. Pollock?"

"I do not."

"Behrman was a former Alderman?"

"Yes. If he's the one you mean."

\$500,000 Court-House Deal.

The matter of the building of the half million dollar Bronx court house which Commissioner Mitchell has inaugurated will produce a scandal—was immediately probed by the investigators. Commissioner Mitchell required the witness to detail the letting of the contract for the big job, which was procured by the Thomas J. Brady Construction Company.

Commissioner Mitchell then went into the matter of stone used in construction.

Bucks Harbor (Maine) stone was a bone of contention. A certain political clique in the Bronx is alleged to have been interested in bringing Bucks Harbor stone into the Bronx for the courthouse. Of it President Haffen said:

"It's one of the best building granites I know of."

"Do you know who represented the Bucks Harbor quarry?"

"I don't know, but I suppose you allude to William E. Morris, its counsel."

Morris was Representative.

Morris is a former Alderman, recently elected political leader of a Bronx district.

"Do you know the agent for Bucks Harbor?"

"I do not."

"Did Mr. Morris present his claims to the architect?"

"If he did he was acting within his rights."

"Do you know what his interests were?"

"I do not."

"Do you know he has a summer residence in South Brookfield, Maine?"

"I don't know anything about it."

Morris's private affairs." Commissioner Mitchell suddenly reverted to the specifications which, the witness had testified, were drawn up by a committee consisting of himself, the chief engineer, architect, "Mike" Garvin, chief clerk and other officials. "Were't changes made in those specifications after the contract was executed?" was asked.

"I know of none."

"If any was made was it without your consent?"

"I know of none."

"Would you authorize any change in plans which would materially lessen the structural strength of the Court House to the advantage of the contractor and that the original cost figured on would be materially lessened?"

"I do not believe any such change was made," answered President Haffen, angrily.

Here Mr. Van Doren, counsel for Haffen, intervened.

"If," he said, "the Commissioner has knowledge that such changes were made, I now call upon him to advise the witness to that effect."

"I have such information, but shall not disclose it until the proper time," replied Commissioner Mitchell.

Protests Against Politics.

Then came into the limelight the name of "Mike" Garvin, who succeeded Haffen as leader of the Thirty-fifth Assembly District and who is also the supervising architect of the Bronx.

"What is Garvin's political connection with you?" asked Commissioner Mitchell.

"What's politics got to do with this investigation?" demanded President Haffen.

"That's just what I was going to ask. What has politics got to do with that court-house?" demanded the chief investigator.

"Mike Garvin is an efficient man—a graduated architect," said Mr. Haffen. "What buildings has he ever erected? Mention one," said Commissioner Mitchell.

"I am not going into Garvin's private affairs," began Haffen.

"Is that going into private affairs? Well, tell us about Garvin's political affairs."

President Haffen then related how Garvin succeeded him as leader, and the readjustment of things political under the new leader.

"Didn't Garvin and Morris travel to Maine together to look over the Bucks Harbor stone quarry?"

"I don't know."

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AS KING'S SONS THEY SUE SPAIN'S ROYAL FAMILY.

Claim of Spaniards Whose Mother Was an Actress Disputed by Queen Mother.

MADRID, March 23.—The judges in the Elena Sanz affair called at the palace yesterday to take the evidence of the Queen Mother. Elena Sanz was a Spanish actress by whom King Alfonso XII. had two natural sons. These children are now suing the heirs of Alfonso XII. for an annuity which they claim was left to their mother by the King and which was to revert, after her death, to them.

The Queen deposed that a few days after the death of Alfonso XII. Senor Salmeron went to Senor Abella, who was then Master of the Household, and told him that Elena Sanz had in her possession certain letters from the late King, the publication of which would cause a great scandal. She would give them up for \$15,000, and in addition Salmeron claimed \$1,000 for his services in the matter.

Trusting to the integrity of Salmeron the Queen paid over these two sums, and was assured by him that all the letters in question had been destroyed. The present suit of the Sanz heirs, however, is based entirely upon letters identical with those which the Queen paid to have burned.

The Sanz matter is to come up before the Supreme Court, that tribunal having declared itself competent to try the case.

FULL TIME FOR 10,000 ELECTRIC WORKERS.

SCHEENECTADY, March 23.—The ten thousand employees of the General Electric Company, in this city, who have been striking for four days a week for two months, will shortly go on full time as a result of the large orders recently secured.

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LITTLE BOY'S FOOT WORTH MORE THAN \$2,000, SAYS COURT

Justice Morschauer Shocked by Verdict and Jury Raises Amount to \$8,000.

(Special to The Evening World.) WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., March 23.—In striking contrast to the decision of the New Jersey Judge who declared a baby's life was not worth more than \$1 was the action here to-day of Supreme Court Justice Morschauer, who refused to accept the verdict of a jury which valued a four-year-old boy's foot at \$2,000.

The amount, the Justice declared was not sufficient according to the findings in the case, and he sent the jury back to again ponder over the testimony presented. Under the rubric of the Court they quadrupled the figure and awarded damages of \$8,000.

The case was that of little Patrick Moran, who through a guardian sued the New York City Railway Company for \$5,000 for the loss of his left foot. When the \$2,000 verdict, which was sealed, was returned Justice Morschauer, with a show of indignation, said:

"I don't think the amount is sufficient for the loss the plaintiff sustained. It shocks the sensibility of the Court. There should have been no compromise verdict. If you found for the plaintiff at all the amount should have been larger, and your verdict shocks. If you believed there was compensation, then the finding should have been for the defendant. Now go back and deliberate."

Rather crestfallen, the jury retired, spent an hour in further deliberation, and then came into court with a ver-

dict for \$8,000. This was accepted by the court.

The plaintiff sued through Lawyer Thomas J. O'Neill, who proved that young Moran was playing on Desbross street when he was run down by a trolley car. He alleged that the company negligently operated a car on a narrow street.

The case has attracted unusual attention owing to Justice Morschauer's ruling.

RIGHTS OF LABOR RESTORED BY BILL

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The bill prepared by the National Civic Federation after conferences with President Roosevelt and representatives of capital and labor to relieve the stringency of the Sherman Anti-Trust law, was introduced in the House to-day by Representative Hepburn, of Iowa, Chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. It was referred by Speaker Cannon to that Committee for consideration and report, and it is understood that President Roosevelt will, in a message to Congress, make a recommendation concerning it.

One of the most interesting sections of the Federation bill is that which seeks to relieve organized labor from the suppressive effects of the recent Supreme Court decision declaring labor unions to be conspiracies in restraint of trade and therefore unlawful. The bill, broadly speaking, aims to restore to unions their right of peaceful existence, including the right to strike, but leaving them still amenable to the Sherman act in the matter of boycotts, picketing and similar coercive practices. The section is as follows:

"Nothing is said as approved July 2, 1907, in this act, intended, nor shall any provision thereof be enforced, so as to interfere with or to restrict any right of employees to strike for any cause or to combine or to contract with each other or with employers, for the purpose of peacefully obtaining from employers satisfactory terms for their labor or satisfactory conditions of employment, or so as to interfere with or restrict any right of employers for any cause to discharge all or any of their employees or to combine or to contract with each other with employees, for the purpose of peacefully obtaining labor on satisfactory terms."

JAMES MCGREERY & CO.

23rd Street 34th Street

On Tuesday, March 24th.

RIBBONS. In Both Stores.

5 1/4-inch Moire Taffeta and 5 1/4-inch Taffeta Ribbon. Complete assortment of colors, white and black. 25c per yd.

Flowered Ribbon, light grounds. 7 1/2 and 10 1/2 inches wide. 85c per yard

TOILET DEP'TS. In Both Stores.

Sale of Celluloid Hair Brushes and Mirrors (discontinued designs). Ivory, white, pearl, antique ivory and coco-bolo finish.

500 Hair Brushes.....75c and 1.00 value 1.00 to 2.00

200 Mirrors.....75c and 1.00 value 1.00 to 2.50

ART NEEDLEWORK DEP'TS. In Both Stores.

Sale of Stamped Patterns for Waists and Underwear. Combination designs for French and eyelet embroidery.

On Fine Nainsook.

Gowns.....75c value 1.35

Chemises.....45c value 60c

Drawers.....38c value 55c

Corset Covers.....18c value 30c

Embroidery Hoops, Needles, Wools, Silks, Cottons, Stiletos, etc.

UPHOLSTERY DEP'TS. In Both Stores.

Materials suitable for Summer Furnishings, including many soft and dainty Art Stuffs. Designs and colors for draperies and hangings.

Silk gauze. 50 inches wide. Various colors. 1.00 per yard

Madras and Tissues. Numerous designs....75c, 1.00 and